

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

(ISO) W

----- 025692

R 220630Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6244

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TAIPEI 4539

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TW, US

SUBJECT: ROC OFFICIALS STRESS IMPORTANCE OF TAIWAN IN
ASIAN LINE OF DEFENSE

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. IN RECENT SEPARATE JULY 19 APPEARANCES BEFORE COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE YUAN, TWO HIGH-RANKING CHINESE OFFICIALS STRESSED THAT FOLLOWING THE FALL OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA, TAIWAN HAD BECOME EVEN MORE IMPORTANT IN THE ASIAN LINE OF DEFENSE.

2. LT. GEN. CHIANG WEI-KUO, COMMANDANT OF THE NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE AND SON OF CHIANG KAI-SHEK, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE YUAN'S NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE THAT TO CONTROL THE SOUTH CHINA SEA, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE DEFENSE OF THE TAIWAN STRAIT BE BEEFED UP SO THAT THE FIRST-LINE DEFENSE CAN GIVE THE U.S. AMPLE TIME TO SEND IN ITS TROOPS WHEN NECESSARY. REVIEWING THE WORLD SITUATION AFTER THE FALL OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA, HE NOTED THAT THE U.S. HAS MADE NEW COMMITMENTS TO DEFEND VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD. HE REGRETTED THAT THE U.S. HAD FAILED TO TAKE THE STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT TAIWAN
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STRAIT INTO CONSIDERATION. HE ADDED THAT THE U.S. MUST HAVE AN OVERALL STRATEGIC SCHEME IN WHICH THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION AND THE INDIAN OCEAN HAVE AN INDIVISIBLE RELATIONSHIP. TO KEEP THE INDIAN OCEAN IN FRIENDLY HANDS, IT WAS IMPORTANT

THAT THE TAIWAN STRAIT WHICH CONTROLS THE SEA LANE TO THE
INDIAN OCEAN REMAIN IN FRIENDLY HANDS.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER SHEN CHANG-HUAN, WHILE TESTIFYING BEFORE
THE LEGISLATIVE YUAN'S FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, SAID
THAT AFTER THE FALL OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA, THE ROC HAS BE-
COME AN EVEN MORE STRATEGIC LINK IN THE ASIAN CHAIN OF DEFENSE.
NOTING THAT THE INTERESTS OF THE U.S. ARE CLOSELY LINKED WITH
THOSE OF PACIFIC COUNTRIES, SHEN SAID THAT HE DID NOT THINK
THE U.S. WOULD EVER PULL OUT OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC. THE
U.S., HE ADDED, HAS TO RESTORE ITS CREDIBILITY AND WIN BACK
THE CONFIDENCE OF ITS ALLIES. THUS IT HAS REITERATED ITS
DEFENSE COMMITMENT TO THE ROC.
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3. IT IS APPARENT THAT AT LEAST PUBLICLY THE GROC WILL CON-
TINUE TO STRESS THE "BENEFITS" ACCRUING TO IT AS A RESULT
OF THE FALL OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA.
UNGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, MILITARY PLANS, PERSONAL OPINION, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TAIPEI04539
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750253-0170
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197507103/baaaadvs.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <10 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971014
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, TW, US, XB, PFOR, (CHIANG WEI-KUO)
To: STATE INFO TOKYO
PEKING
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006